



STATE OF TENNESSEE

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

DON SUNDQUIST  
GOVERNOR

August 24, 1998

RECEIVED

AUG 26 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Mr. William Kennard, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, Suite 814  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: CC Docket 96-45 Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, SLC Application I.D. no 145698

Dear Chairman Kennard:

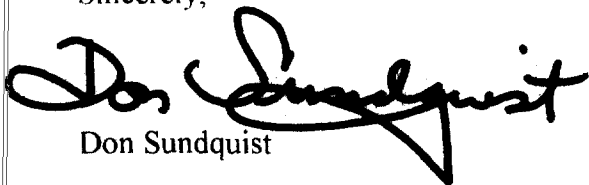
As children return to school in Tennessee, we await your decision regarding the E-rate funding for the network needs of our schools. I am aware of your comments before the Senate Commerce Committee and other national forums regarding this issue. Tennessee is committed to a course that provides every child in our state with access to the Internet.

As indicated to you by the letter from the Commissioners in my cabinet and the Comptroller of the Treasury, we want to be certain that you and your staff have all of the information needed to answer any questions regarding our Form 471 application. Under the careful direction of these officials, we have followed the Tennessee procurement rules and we believe we have complied with the Universal Service Fund rules.

Our local schools have made considerable investment in increasing the number of computers from 24,000 to over 57,000. Our communities have planned for, purchased, installed and internally wired these computers to be ready for the start of school. Our department personnel have completed the competitive procurement process for the purchase of Internet access. Our legislature has appropriated the State's share of the cost of Internet access. We are ready to serve the 900,000 Tennessee K-12 students. All of this effort and expense is waiting on the expanded Internet service that is requested in the E-rate of application under review at the Schools and Library Corporation and the Federal Communications Commission.

The E-rate program represents an important financial commitment by the President, the Vice President and the Congress, and depends on the proper implementation through the states, local school officials and the FCC. We appreciate your efforts and look forward to a timely completion of the E-rate review process and the funding of our application along with the other 30,000 applications. If there is any information that my staff or I can provide, please let us know.

Sincerely,

  
Don Sundquist

No. of Copies rec'd 018  
ABCDE

cc: Senator Fred Thompson  
Senator Bill Frist

State Capitol, Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0001  
Telephone No. (615) 741-2001

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Christine L. Zepka, hereby certify that copies of the foregoing letter were mailed, postage prepaid, on this 26th day of August, 1998, via first class mail, to the following individuals at the address listed below:

Magalie Roman Salas\*  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW, Room 222  
Washington, D.C. 20554

William Kennard, Chairman\*  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW, Room 814  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Commissioner Michael K. Powell\*  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Commissioner Gloria Tristani\*  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW, Room 826  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth\*  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW, Room 802  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Commissioner Susan Ness\*  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW, Room 832  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Christopher Wright, Esq.\*  
General Counsel  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW, Room 614  
Washington, D.C. 20554

A. Richard Metzger, Chief\*  
Common Carrier Bureau  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW, Room 500  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Irene Flannery, Esq.\*  
Common Carrier Bureau  
Federal Communications Commission  
2100 M Street, NW, 8th Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Ira Fishman, CEO  
Schools & Libraries Corp.  
1023 15th Street, NW, #200  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Debra Kriete, Esq.  
General Counsel  
Schools & Libraries Corp.  
1023 15th Street, NW, #200  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Schools & Libraries Corp.  
P.O. Box 4217  
Iowa City, IA 52244-4217

Jeffrey S. Linder, Esq.  
Wiley, Rein & Fielding  
1776 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
Counsel to Education Networks of  
America

Ramsey L. Woodworth, Esq.  
Robert M. Gurss, Esq.  
Rudolph J. Geist, Esq.  
Wilkes, Artis, Hedrick & Lane, Chartered  
1666 K Street, N.W.  
Suite 1100  
Washington, D.C. 20006

  
Christine L. Zepka

\*via Hand Delivery